SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS

EXPOSING THE STRANGE SECRETS OF OTHER WORLDS!

NO. 17 DEC.-JAN.

MYSTERY IN SPACE

10c

WHAT WAS THE STRANGE EXECUTION THAT AWAITED THOSE DOOMED TO WALK...

"The Last Mile of Space!"

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Art Instruction, Inc., Dept. 10503-3
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Name _____ Age ____

Address _____ Apt. ____

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THROUGH THE DREADED APERTURE -- THE UNCANNY OPENING IN A CLIFFSIDE ON THE LITTLE WORLD OF DEIMOS -- PASSED MANY CREATURES OF VARIED ORIGINS -- ALL SENTENCED TO A STRANGE EXILE -- FOR A CERTAIN, DREADFUL REASON! BUT OF ALL OF THOSE WHO PASSED THROUGH THE APERTURE, PERHAPS YOUNG LIEUTENANT KIRK DAVIES REGRETTED MOST THAT HE HAD TO WALK ...

THE LAST MILE OF SPACE

ON DEIMOS -- ONE OF THE TWO MOONS OF MARS -- AT AN OUTPOST OF THE INTERPLANETARY LEGION -- IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 29TH CENTURY...

OUR NEW REPLACEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED, SIR! LIEUTENANT KIRK DAVIES... AND A SQUAD OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL ...
SEND THE LIEUTENANT IN TO SEE ME AT ONCE, WEGAND...

SOON AFTER...

LIEUTENANT DAVIES, I'M GOING TO ASSUME, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, THAT YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE MISSION OF THIS OUTPOST -- WHICH IS TO GUARD THE FAMOUS SPACE APERTURE HERE ON DEIMOS! LISTEN CAREFULLY NOW...
YES, SIR...

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MYSTERY IN SPACE

"IT WAS TYCHO DANTI, THE 28TH CENTURY SPACE-EXPLORER, WHO FIRST DISCOVERED THE INCREDIBLE APERTURE.."

THIS ISN'T MERELY A CAVE ENTRANCE! I CAN SEE **TWIN SUNS** SHINING IN THERE, BELONGING TO A STRANGE WORLD! THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THIS FANTASTIC PHENOMENON...

"DANTI'S BRILLIANT MIND IMMEDIATELY ARRIVED AT THE TRUTH..."

THIS **APERTURE**, THIS HOLE ON THE SIDE OF THIS HILL--IS A **WINDOW** LOOKING INTO **ANOTHER DIMENSION**--CO-EXISTING SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE SAME SPACE WITH DEIMOS!

"THAT SAME YEAR, DANTI LED A PARTY INTO DIMENSION MINUS-X--AS HE NAMED IT... AND ALL RETURNED UNHARMED..."

WE CAN ANNOUNCE TWO FACTS TO THE SOLAR WORLDS NOW! ONE--THIS **APERTURE** IS THE **ONLY** ENTRANCE INTO DIMENSION MINUS-X! AND TWO--CONDITIONS INSIDE **WILL** SUPPORT LIFE...

"DIMENSION MINUS-X MIGHT HAVE BEEN COLONIZED LIKE ANY NEW WORLD--IF IT WERE NOT FOR A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT.. SOON AFTER..."

HE'S GOT THE NEW RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS ALL RIGHT! CONTACT PATROL HEADQUARTERS--WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO REPORT NEW CASES AT ONCE!

YES, SIR!

"THE NEW RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS SPREAD FAST.. AND IT COULD NOT BE CURED! AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE SOLAR AUTHORITIES..."

MY PLAN, GENTLEMEN, IS TO PLACE ALL THOSE AFFLICTED WITH THE NEW RADIATION SICKNESS **IN DIMENSION MINUS-X!** THEY WILL BE SAFE THERE--AND UNABLE TO INFECT OTHERS!

AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION!

"THUS...THE **APERTURE** BECAME A SCENE OF SAD FAREWELLS--AS THE AFFLICTED EXILES GAZED ON OUR UNIVERSE FOR THE LAST TIME..."

MOVE ALONG, PLEASE...

GOODBYE, ALEX!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"THE NEW SICKNESS WAS NOT WIPED OUT, BUT THE PLAN DID CHECK THE SPREAD OF IT..."

MOST OF WHAT I'VE JUST TOLD YOU IS GENERALLY KNOWN, LIEUTENANT... BUT WHAT IS **NOT** KNOWN IS WHAT OCCURRED THIS YEAR AT THE *APERTURE*! IT'S *TOP SECRET* STILL...

"SEVERAL OF THE AFFLICTED EXILES MADE A FORAY OUT OF DIMENSION MINUS X--AND OVERPOWERED THE GUARDS ON DUTY..."

SEIZE THAT GUN-MOUNT! HURRY!

HEL?! UHHH...

"WITH THE GUN-MOUNT, THE EXILES VANISHED BACK THROUGH THE APERTURE! THE AFFAIR WAS A MYSTERY... UNTIL I RECEIVED A HEADQUARTERS REPORT..."

GREAT SOL! OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS GRADUALLY AFFECTS THE **MIND**! IT MAKES ITS VICTIMS MADLY WAR-LIKE AND FEROCIOUS! THIS **IS** SERIOUS!

"THE INCIDENT--PLUS THE STARTLING REPORT--CAUSED THE AUTHORITIES TO TRIPLE THE SIZE OF OUR OUTPOST..."

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND, LIEUTENANT, WHY WE MUST ALL BE ON THE ALERT EVERY MOMENT HERE ON DEIMOS!

I... UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN! AND YOU CAN RELY ON ME, SIR!

LATER THAT WEEK... AS LIEUTENANT DAVIES AND HIS NEW SQUAD RELIEVE THE GUARD AT THE APERTURE...

KLIF, YOU TAKE PATROL POST NUMBER ONE! REMEMBER, WE **MAY** BE UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY THE EXILES INSIDE DIMENSION MINUS X! DON'T RELAX FOR AN INSTANT...

YES, SIR!

BUT AS CORPORAL KLIF--A PLUTONIAN--TURNS TO GO--SUDDENLY...

HUH? KLIF, LOOK! THIS TREE WE'VE BEEN STANDING NEXT TO--IT'S STARTED TO WITHER!

BY SATURN! THAT'S A SIGN OF THE **RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS**, LIEUTENANT!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

THEN... PLUCKING A RED FLOWER FROM A NEARBY BUSH, THE PLUTONIAN BRINGS IT TOWARD HIM...

THIS FLOWER... TURNING **BLACK** IN MY HAND, LIEUTENANT!

NO DOUBT OF IT, KLIF! IT **IS** THE NEW SICKNESS!

IN THE OUTPOST COMMANDER'S QUARTERS... SOON AFTER...

SIR, LIEUTENANT DAVIES AND HIS ENTIRE SQUAD ARE INFECTED WITH THE RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO! PREPARE THEM FOR EXILE!

LATER... AS THE YOUNG OFFICER AND HIS MEN MARCH GRIMLY TOWARD THE APERTURE...

MOVE ALONG-- KEEP MOVING!

DON'T RUSH US, SERGEANT! IT'S NOT EASY TO LEAVE OUR UNIVERSE BEHIND-- FOREVER!

MOMENTS LATER... ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE **APERTURE**...

HAIL, FELLOW EXILES! WELCOME TO DIMENSION MINUS-X!

LOOKS LIKE A WELCOMING PARTY HERE TO GREET US, KLIF!

I HAVE ORDERS TO CONDUCT YOU AND YOUR SUBORDINATES TO OUR CHIEFTAIN, THRUNDAR, THE VENUSIAN! PLEASE FOLLOW ME!

SHORTLY... IN THE PRESENCE OF THRUNDAR, THE VENUSIAN..

SOLDIERS LIKE YOURSELF ARE PARTICULARLY WELCOME TO US AT THIS TIME! WE CAN USE MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN OUR GREAT PLAN!

GREAT.. **PLAN**, SIR?

WE INTEND THIS VERY NIGHT TO BURST THROUGH THE **APERTURE**! OUR EARLIER FORAY ASSURED US THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DO SO... AND BY A SURPRISE ATTACK TO OVERPOWER THE OUTPOST GUARDS!

WE SHALL FORCE THE FEDERATED SOLAR WORLDS TO CAPITULATE TO US! AND WE SHALL DO IT WITH HARDLY ANY ORDINARY WEAPONS OF WAR! DO YOU SEE THIS FLASK, LIEUTENANT? IT CONTAINS TRILLIONS OF THE MICRO-SPORES WHICH CAUSE THE RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS!

SCIENTISTS AMONG US ISOLATED THE VIRUS! THERE IS ENOUGH HERE TO INFECT THE ENTIRE OUTSIDE UNIVERSE! AND BY MERELY THREATENING TO OPEN THIS FLASK, WE SHALL FORCE THE SOLAR WORLDS TO SURRENDER!

VERY CLEVER, THRUNDAR...

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOUR "GREAT PLAN", THE SOLAR WORLDS SUSPECTED SOME PLOT LIKE THIS--AND SENT US IN HERE TO UNCOVER IT! SEIZE AND BIND HIM, KLIF!

SECURELY TYING UP THE EXILE CHIEFTAIN, THE LEGION SQUAD MAKES A HURRIED RETREAT BACK TOWARD THE APERTURE...

WE'LL BURY THIS AWFUL FLASK, KLIF! IT'S THE SAFEST THING WE CAN DO WITH IT!

NO SIGN OF ANY PURSUIT YET, SIR...

MEANWHILE... BACK ON DEIMOS... AS A TOP SECRET MESSAGE IS DECODED...

BY JUPITER! DAVIES AND HIS SQUAD WERE HAND-PICKED *INTELLIGENCE* OPERATIVES! THEY ONLY PRETENDED TO HAVE THE RADIATION SICKNESS--IN ORDER TO PENETRATE INTO DIMENSION MINUS-X--AND SPY ON THE EXILES!

SOON AFTER... AS THE GRIM SQUAD EMERGES FROM THE APERTURE UNHARMED...

THEN... THAT TREE WITHERING AND THE FLOWER TURNING BLACK WERE ONLY ***TRICKS***, LIEUTENANT!

RIGHT, SIR! SORRY WE COULDN'T LET YOU IN ON THE SECRET BUT WE WERE UNDER STRICT ORDERS...

EH?

MYSTERY IN SPACE

THAT TREE... IS WITHERING NOW, KLIF!

YES, SIR... AND THIS TIME IT IS *NO TRICK!* WE MUST HAVE BECOME INFECTED!

LATER... AFTER A SWIFT EXAMINATION REVEALS THAT THE ENTIRE SQUAD HAS CONTRACTED THE DREAD DISEASE...

OUR MINDS WILL REMAIN CLEAR, KLIF -- LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO CARRY OUT *OUR* PLAN!

YES, SIR!

AS THE GRIM SQUAD DISAPPEARS -- FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL TIME -- THROUGH THE SPACE-APERTURE... MOMENTS LATER...

BOOM!

THEY DID IT, SERGEANT -- DESTROYED THE *APERTURE* FROM THE OTHER SIDE WITH AN ATOMIC CHARGE -- AND SEALED THEMSELVES IN DIMENSION MINUS-X *FOREVER!*

IN THE YEAR 2932... WITH THE RADIOACTIVE SICKNESS NO LONGER A THREAT, A PLAGUE IS PLACED ON DEIMOS BY A GRATEFUL SOLAR FEDERATION...

The End

IN MEMORY OF THE INTERPLANETARY LEGIONAIRES WHOSE UNSELFISH BRAVERY SECURED THE WELFARE OF THE UNIVERSE AGAINST A DREADFUL MENACE --

LT. KIRK DAVIES
CORPORAL KLIF

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LADY in the MOON!

ACCORDING TO A POPULAR BELIEF, THE SURFACE FEATURES OF THE MOON GIVE THE OPTICAL ILLUSION OF A "MAN'S FACE" ON THE MOON! ACTUALLY, WE MORE APT TO SEE A "LADY IN THE MOON"--AS THE TWO ACCOMPANYING PICTURES ILLUSTRATE...

ACCORDING TO A POLYNESIAN LEGEND, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE LADY WAS PUT ON THE MOON DURING THE TIME OF A GREAT FAMINE--SO THAT THERE WOULD BE ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IROQUOIS INDIANS CLAIM SHE WAS BANISHED THERE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO STOP HER COMPLAINTS.

IF THE PAGE IS HELD AT ARM'S LENGTH, THE DRAWING ON THE RIGHT WILL HELP YOU FIND THE LADY IN THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MOON ON THE LEFT. TO FIND HER IN THE SKY, LOOK AT THE MOON WHEN IT IS FULL OR DURING A FEW DAYS BEFORE FULL MOON.

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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Binky says: "KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY!"

LOOK AT THESE HEADLINES: *"JUVENILE DELINQUENCY ON RISE!" "FIRE SWEEPS CONDEMNED BUILDING"; "MANY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE NEED HELP!"* WHAT KIND OF A TOWN IS THIS, ANYWAY? FOR TWO CENTS, I'D JUST MOVE AWAY!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOE? YOU LOOK PRETTY BLUE!

AW, MY FATHER IS DISGUSTED WITH THIS TOWN WHEN HE SEES HEADLINES LIKE THESE. I DON'T WANT TO MOVE, BINKY-- I LIKE IT HERE!

HMMM... WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT? MAYBE WE CAN GET OUR TEACHER TO ORGANIZE A CLASS GROUP...

THAT'S AN IDEA! THEN WE CAN TALK TO THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

AND SO...

JUVENILE COURT

YES, MORE BOYS AND GIRLS IN OUR TOWN, AS IN OTHER TOWNS, BROKE THE LAW LAST YEAR. WE'RE TRYING OUR BEST TO HELP GET THEM STRAIGHTENED OUT. YOU CAN HELP, TOO, BY OBEYING THE LAW YOURSELVES AND HELPING YOUR FRIENDS TO *THINK* BEFORE THEY *ACT.*

HERE IS WHERE THE NEW HOUSES ARE TO BE BUILT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE OLD ONES THAT WEREN'T SAFE TO LIVE IN. ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TOWNS LIKE OURS ARE WORKING TO SEE THAT PEOPLE HAVE BETTER PLACES TO LIVE IN!

HOUSING AUTHORITY

EVERY TOWN HAS MORE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE NOW. WE MUST TRY TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND SEE THAT OUR CITIZENS KNOW HOW TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEIR HEALTH. WE'VE LICKED A LOT OF DISEASES THAT USED TO BE VERY DANGEROUS--AND WE CAN LICK THIS, TOO, IF EVERYBODY HELPS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

I'M GOING TO TELL MY DAD ABOUT ALL THE THINGS WE LEARNED, BINKY. WHEN HE KNOWS PEOPLE IN OUR TOWN ARE WORKING HARD TO MAKE THINGS BETTER, I THINK HE'LL WANT TO STAY HERE AND HELP!

I BET HE WILL, JOE. IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY SO YOU CAN LEARN WHAT IT *NEEDS* TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. THAT'S BEING A GOOD CITIZEN!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

THE MAN IN THE MOON!

CONTACT WITH THAT METEOR MEANS CERTAIN DEATH! AND JIMMY IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR IT!

THE MOON HAD VANISHED! THE ASIATIC COMBINE CLAIMED A NEW SUPER-WEAPON HAD BLASTED IT OUT OF THE SKY, AND UNLESS THE UNITED STATES SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY, THEY WOULD DESTROY US TOO! BUT TWO AMERICAN ASTRONOMERS HAD A DIFFERENT THEORY TO EXPLAIN THE MOON'S DISAPPEARANCE--AND THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD PROVE IT WAS TO GO OUT INTO SPACE... AND DIE!

"JIMMY, I TELL YOU THE CRATERS OF THE MOON WERE CAUSED BY THE EXPLOSIONS OF GIGANTIC METEORS!"

"YOU'RE WRONG, TED! THE MOON'S CRATERS WERE FORMED BY THE ERUPTION OF COUNTLESS VOLCANOES!"

MYSTERY IN SPACE

AN OLD ARGUMENT ENGROSSES TWO FRIENDLY ENEMIES... AND REMAINS UNSETTLED, AS...

ALL RIGHT, TED! LOOK AT THE CRATERS YOURSELF! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT--

JIMMY-- THE MOON! WHA--?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE MOON-- WHERE IS IT?

THE MOON VANISHED IN FRONT OF MY EYES- LIKE A SOAP BUBBLE!

THE NEWS OF THE MOON'S DISAPPEARANCE SPREADS OVER THE WORLD, CREATING CONSTERNATION!

IT IS THE END OF THE WORLD!

WITHOUT THE MOON, THERE'S HARDLY ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOW AND HIGH TIDES!

MAYBE THE EARTH WILL BE NEXT TO DISAPPEAR!

DAILY STAR EXTRA! MOON VANISHES

AND IN WASHINGTON, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF...

AN ULTIMATUM FROM THE ASIATIC COMBINE! THEY SAY THEY'VE ANNIHILATED THE MOON WITH A NEW SUPER-WEAPON! THEY WARN US THAT UNLESS WE SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY THEY WILL TURN IT ON **US!**

WHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD IN AN ASIATIC CITY..

THE APPEARANCE OF THE MOON HAS PROVIDED US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONQUER AMERICA WITHOUT FIRING A SINGLE SHOT!

THE FOOLS WILL SURELY FALL FOR OUR BLUFF!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

MEANWHILE, THE TWO YOUNG AMERICAN ASTRONOMERS HAVE BEEN SCANNING THE SKIES, SEEKING A CLUE TO THE LUNAR DISAPPEARANCE...

I'VE FOUND SOMETHING, TED! LOOK AT THIS PHOTO OF AN EXPLODED STAR--A NOVA! THE WAVE FORCE OF THAT ENORMOUS EXPLOSION HAS BEEN TRAVELING TOWARD THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

THEN THAT EXPLAINS WHY RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE SHOWN THE STARS MOVING CLOSER TOGETHER! IT'S AN *ILLUSION*! THE NOVA CREATED A **SPACE WARP**!

AND THE MOON WAS SWALLOWED BY THE WARP! TED--WE MUST NOTIFY WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY!

A HURRIED TELEPHONE CALL, A JET-PLANE TRIP, AND IN WASHINGTON...

A SPACE WARP ENGULFED THE MOON? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

A SPACE WARP IS A **FOLD** IN SPACE, GENERAL! LET THIS PIECE OF CLOTH REPRESENT SPACE, AND THIS ORANGE THE MOON...

THE FOLD IN SPACE MOVES LIKE A WAVE--AND WILL SHORTLY REACH EARTH! IT HAS FOLDED AROUND THE MOON--LIKE THIS! WE CAN'T SEE THE MOON BECAUSE WE'RE LOOKING **ACROSS** THE SEAM!

THEN WHY HAVEN'T THE OUTER PLANETS BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY THIS SPACE WARP?

BECAUSE THE OTHER PLANETS WERE ON THE **OTHER** SIDE OF THE SUN, FAR FROM THE WAVE—FRONT OF THE SPACE WARP! THE MOON WAS THE FIRST BODY THE WARP HIT!

IN THAT CASE, THE ASIATICS ARE TRYING TO BLUFF US!

SUPPOSE YOU'RE WRONG! WHAT IF IT **ISN'T** A WARP IN SPACE AND THE ASIATICS **HAVE** GOT A SECRET WEAPON--!

WE CAN PROVE IT, GENERAL--IF YOU GIVE US PERMISSION TO FLY YOUR EXPERIMENTAL SPACESHIP **INSIDE** THE WARP HIDING THE MOON!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

W.TH N HOURS, THE EXPER MENTAL AMER.CAN SPACESHIP LEAVES EARTH...

HEAD FOR THE PLACE THE MOON OUGHT TO BE, JIMMY! I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HEADQUARTERS BY RADIO!

A SPECIAL TELESCOP.C TV SCREEN IS TRAINED ON THE SPACESHIP. THEN, 250,000 MILES OJT...

THE SPACESHIP! IT'S VANISHING!

WE'RE EN-TER.NG THE WARP! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU ANY MORE!

AND ABOARD THE SPACESHIP...

WE'RE .NSIDE THE WARP! THE STARS HAVE DISAPPEARED! AND THERE'S THE MOON!

THOSE HUGE METEORS-- THEY MUST BE HUNKS TORN OFF THE STAR WHICH EXPLODED INTO A NOVA!

WHEN THE METEORS HIT THE MOON, THEY EXPLODE!

THOSE METEORS MIGHT BE MADE OF *C-T-- CONTRA-TERRENE* MATTER!*

LOOK, TED--THAT METEOR IS HEADING FOR THE MOON! WATCH-- WE'LL SEE IF IT'S *CONTRA-TERRENE!*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: **CONTRA-TERRENE**: A PARTICLE OF MATTER WHOSE ELECTRONIC CHARGE IS OPPOSITE TO THE MATTER OF EARTH. UPON CONTACT WITH ANY MASS, IT DISCHARGES ITS ENERGY--IN AN EXPLOSION!

IT *IS C-T!* THE METEOR'S EX-PLOSION SPLIT THE WARP! I CAN SEE *SOME* STARS AGAIN!

THEN, IF WE CAN FIND AN *ENORMOUS C-T* METEOR...

ITS EXPLOSION WOULD DESTROY THE WARP, AND SEND THE MOON BACK INTO NORMAL SPACE!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

THE SPACESHIP CIRCLES THE MOON IN SEARCH OF A GIANT METEOR! SOON...

THAT METEOR COULD DO THE TRICK! BUT HOW CAN **WE** POSSIBLY SET IT OFF?

WE NEED A "TRIGGER"--SOMETHING THAT WILL COLLIDE WITH IT! ISN'T THERE **ANY-THING** WE CAN USE?

WE HAVE A ..**SPACE-SHIP...!** BUT THAT MEANS OUR DEATH...

TIME IS RUNNING OUT IF WE DON'T GET THE MOON TO REAPPEAR, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SURRENDER TO THE ENEMY. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE!

MOMENTS LATER, THE SHIP'S NOSE IS POINTED TOWARD THE DEADLY **C-T** METEOR...

YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN, TED ... AND TOO VALUABLE FOR EARTH TO LOSE!

NO USE THE **TWO** OF US DYING! NOW I'VE GOT TO LOCK THE CONTROLS SO THAT THE SHIP'LL BE SAFE FROM THE EXPLOSION!

THUD!

UNHHHHHH...

LATER, WHEN TED RECOVERS FROM THE BLOW...

OOOOH! MY HEAD! HEY! THE CONTROLS! THEY'RE LOCKED! WE'RE SPEEDING AWAY FROM THE C-T METEOR! HM--WHERE'S JIMMY?

OUTSIDE THE SPACESHIP..

JIMMY OLT IN SPACE-SUIT HEADING FOR THE METEOR! HE'S SACRIFICING HIMSELF.. TO SAVE ME!

THE MASS OF MY BODY WILL SET OFF THE METEOR AS WELL AS THE SHIP COULD!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE GIANT C-T MASS, SPEEDS THE EARTHMAN IN SPACE...

CONTACT! FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLOSION WHICH RIPS THE SPACE WARP APART!

JIMMY'S SACRIFICE PAID OFF! THE SPACE WARP IS DESTROYED! THE MOON AND THE SHIP HAVE BEEN HURLED BACK INTO NORMAL SPACE!

LATER, BACK ON EARTH...

WE'VE REJECTED THE ASIATIC ULTIMATUM! THERE'S NO MORE DANGER OF WAR!

JIMMY WAS A HERO! WE'LL PUT UP A MONUMENT TO HIM! AS FOR YOU, TED, I'LL SEE YOU GET THE MEDAL OF HONOR -

GOOD OLD JIMMY! SAVED HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY, AND FRIEND...

ONCE AGAIN A PLACID MOON FLOATS OVERHEAD. AS TED GLANCES UP TO THE SKY...

YOU DON'T NEED TO BUILD A MONUMENT TO JIMMY! THE METEOR CARVED OUT PART OF THE MOON! THERE'S A FACE ON THE MOON NOW--!

.. THE OUTLINE OF JIMMY'S FACE! THERE'S NO MEMORIAL! JIMMY WILL ALWAYS BE... THE MAN IN THE MOON!

THE END

ADVERTISEMENT

HE'S THE FIRST SNAKE CHARMER WE'VE SEEN IN INDIA-
WHY IS THE SNAKE SWAYING BACK AND FORTH?
HE'S UNDER THE SPELL OF THE MUSIC!
THAT WAS GREAT!
I WISH WE COULD SHOW THEM ONE OF OUR TRICKS-
PLAY SOME MUSIC AND I'LL TRY-
JUJUJU! AMAZING!
THERE'S NO TRICK TO THIS WITH FLEER DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
HAVE SOME FOLKS IT'S THE WORLD'S FAVORITE BUBBLE GUM!
MUMBO-JUMBO GUMBO FLEER!
HE SAYS, "TRY SOME FLEER DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM YOURSELVES, KIDS!"
YOU'LL BE CHARMED BY ITS SECRET SWEET TASTE-
-AN' YOU'LL LIKE THE FUNNIES FACTS AN' FORTUNES TOO!
HAVE FUN WITH GUM!
FRANK H FLEER CORP
PHILADELPHIA 41 PA

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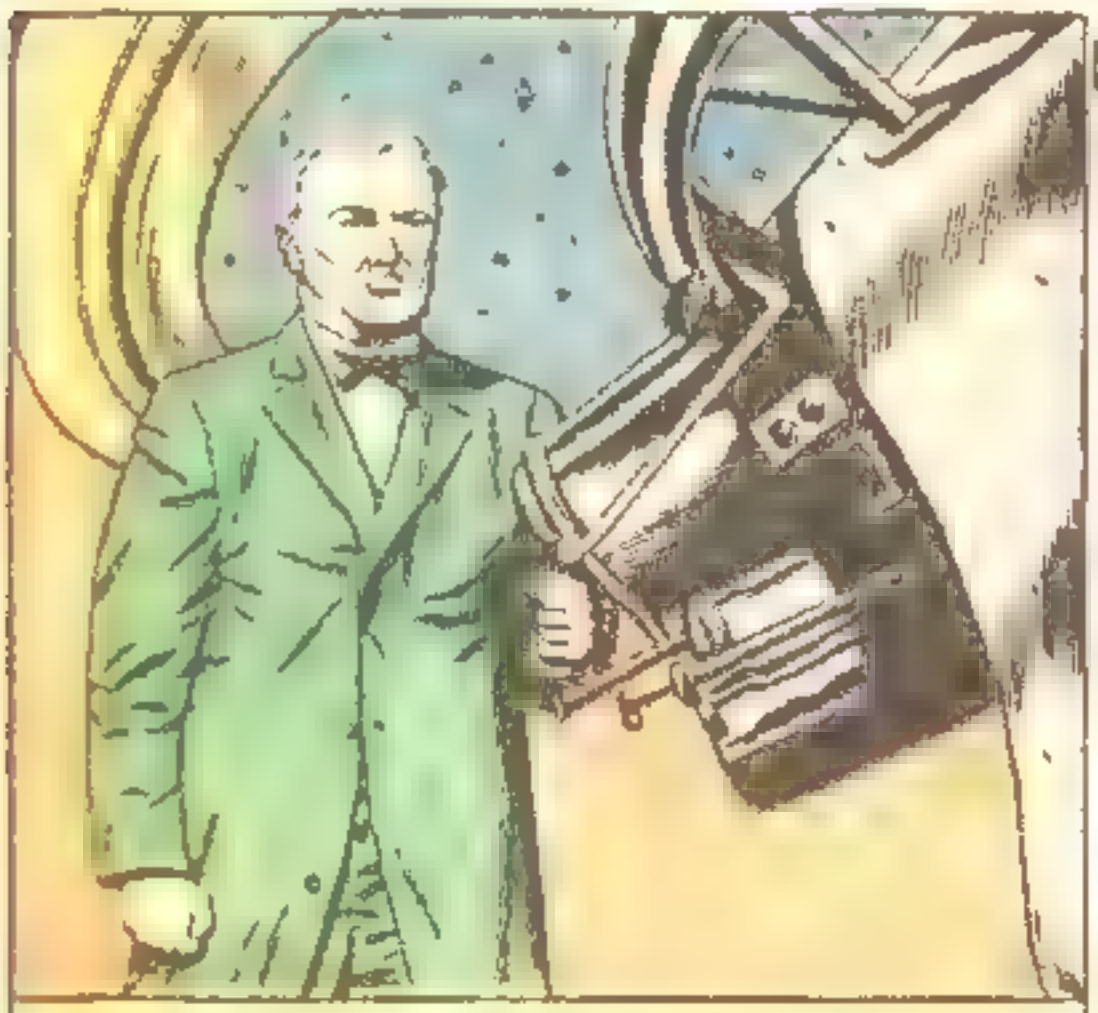
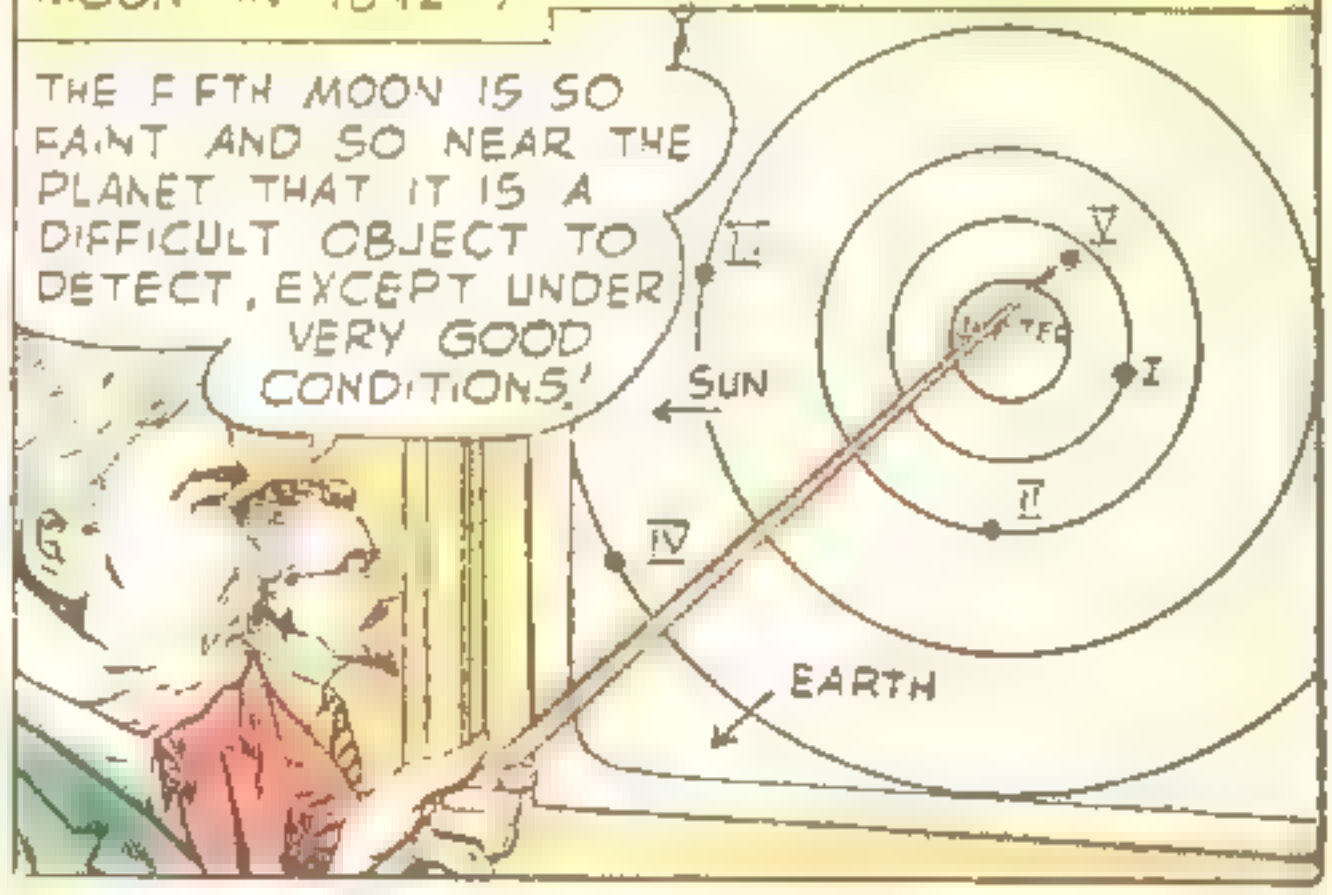
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

GIANTS OF THE TELESCOPE



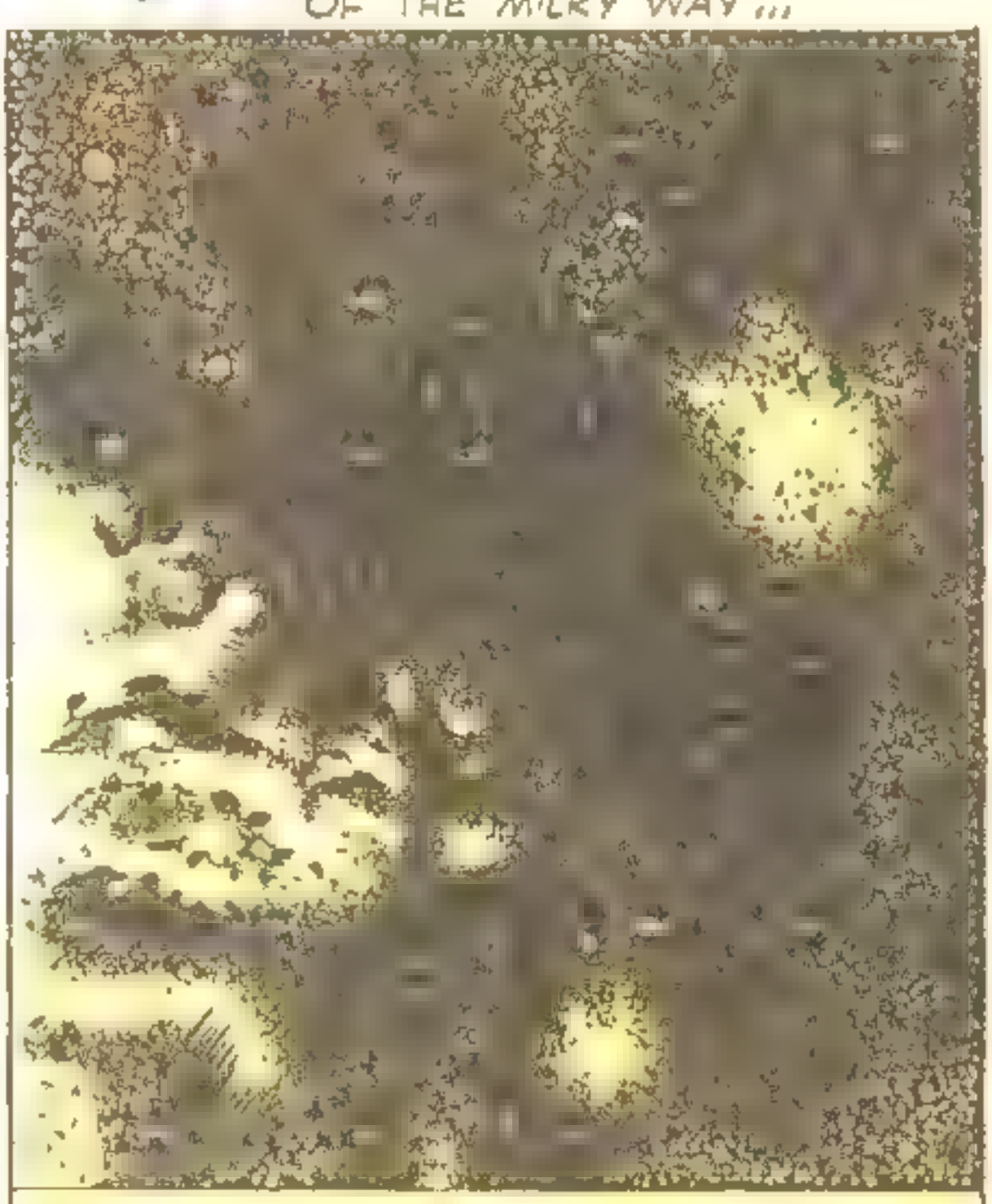
EDWARD E. BARNARD (1857-1923)
SKY PHOTOGRAPHER

FOR MORE THAN 280 YEARS, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE PLANET JUPITER HAD ONLY FOUR SATELLITES (DISCOVERED BY GALILLEO IN 1610) UNTIL BARNARD DISCOVERED A FIFTH MOON IN 1892.



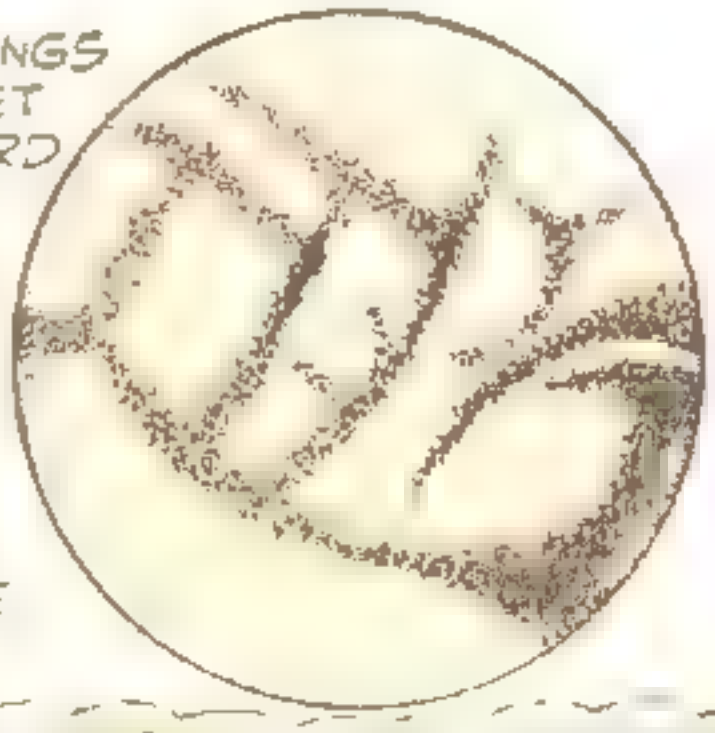
ALTHOUGH COMETS HAD BEEN OBSERVED AND STUDIED FOR CENTURIES, BARNARD WAS THE FIRST TO DISCOVER A COMET *BEFORE* IT BECAME VISUAL, A FEAT HE ACCOMPLISHED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY IN 1892.

BARNARD'S OUTSTANDING RECORD IN CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY INCLUDES 1400 NEGATIVES OF COMETS AND 4000 PLATES OF THE MILKY WAY...



THE MILKY WAY NEAR THE STAR RHO OPHIUCHI, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY DR E.E. BARNARD WITH THE BRUCE LENS OF THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY, APRIL 5, 1905

DESPITE DIFFICULTIES IN VIEWING THE SURFACE MARKINGS ON THE PLANET MERCURY, BARNARD SUCCEEDED IN OBSERVING AND DESCRIBING THEM AS VERY MUCH RESEMBLING THE MARKINGS SEEN ON THE MOON WITH THE NAKED EYE.



THE SURFACE DETAIL OF MERCURY

THE THOUGHT PIRATE!

INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC. INSURED ANYTHING! WHY NOT? WASN'T BERT BRANDON, INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR, THEIR ACE TROUBLE-SHOOTER? BUT WHEN SPACE PIRATES STARTED SHOOTING **I.I.I'S** CLIENTS OUT OF THE SKY, BERT FOUND MORE TROUBLE THAN HE ANTICIPATED -- INCLUDING THE HIJACKING OF HIS SPACESHIP, HIS FREEDOM, AND EVEN HIS THOUGHTS!

HA HA! NOT EVEN THE SPACE NAVY CAN BREAK THROUGH MY FORCE FIELD -- THANKS TO YOU, BERT BRANDON!

OMIGOSH! I'VE RUINED **INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC.!**

OMIGOSH! I'VE RUINED **INTERPLANE — TARY INSURANCE, INC.!**

SPACEGRAM

WILLIAM J. EMORY, INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC. CAPITOL CITY, EARTH.

DEAR BOSS:

WHEN YOU SUMMONED ME TO YOUR OFFICE YESTERDAY, I KNEW AT ONCE IT MEANT TROUBLE -- FOR INTER-PLANETARY INSURANCE, INC!

BRANDON, SPACE PIRATES HAVE CAPTURED THREE FREIGHTERS... HERE! THEY WERE INSURED BY **INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC.!** IF THIS KEEPS UP...

SAY NO MORE, W J! BERT BRANDON IS ON HIS WAY!

EARTH

MARS

JUPITER

"...SO HERE I AM BOUND FOR MARS IN THE **I.I.I. CLIPPER!** THE NEW "FORCE FIELD" OF OUR SHIP WORKS LIKE A CHARM!"

ANOTHER METEOR DEFLECTED BY THE "FORCE FIELD"! I WON'T BE RUNNING INTO ANY TROUBLE ON THIS ASSIGNMENT!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT OCCASSIONALLY, EVEN BERT BRANDON CAN BE WRONG! MY TROUBLES STARTED WHEN I LANDED AT THE SPACE NAVY YARD ON MARS...

THE PIRATE LAIR IS LOCATED SOMEWHERE AMONG THE ASTEROIDS. THAT'S ALL THE INFORMATION I CAN GIVE YOU!

THANKS, COMMANDER. THAT MAKES THE ODDS OF FINDING THE RIGHT ASTEROID ABOUT 50,000 TO 1! BUT THAT DOESN'T FAZE ME.

"...TWO DAYS LATER, WITH THE HELP OF THE "FORCE FIELD", I WAS MANEUVERING THROUGH THE ASTEROID BELT, WHEN..."

THOSE SPECKS--THEY'RE SPACESHIPS! AND THEY'RE COMING UP FASTER THAN MY CLIPPER CAN TRAVEL!

ONLY A WEALTHY MAN CAN AFFORD A SPACE CLIPPER! GRAB IT--WE'LL HOLD HIM FOR RANSOM!

THE SPACE PIRATES! BERT BRANDON, YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE DISCOVERED THE PIRATES SO SOON--OR ARE YOU?

THEY'VE GOT ME BOXED IN! I CAN'T ESCAPE! THEY'RE FORCING ME ON TO THAT ASTEROID--CERES!

WHEN WE GET THAT SHIP BACK TO HEADQUARTERS, I WANT TO INVESTIGATE THAT "FORCE FIELD"!

I'M HELPLESS--FOR THE MOMENT! MY "FORCE FIELD" DOESN'T WORK AGAINST MEN! I'LL HAVE TO EMPLOY SHEER MENTAL POWER TO OVERCOME BRUTE FORCE!

I'M GORT, THE PIRATE LEADER! I'M TAKING YOU AND YOUR SHIP INTO CUSTODY!

I GUESS THIS IS NO TIME TO OVERCOME HIM WITH MY GENIUS--NOT WITH THAT BLASTER POINTED MY WAY!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE $50,000 HANDY? GORT THINKS I'M WORTH $50,000 TO THE I.I.I. IT'S A BARGAIN, FOR CONFIDENTIALLY I'M WORTH FAR MORE! IN THE MEANTIME HE'S HOLDING ME CAPTIVE IN A CAVE...

TAP!

TAP!

WH-WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IS SOMEONE ELSE IMPRISONED HERE?

"...AND OUT PARADED A RARE NATIVE OF CERES!"

A PARCAT--PART PARROT, PART CAT! YOU RE CUTE! I THINK I'LL CALL YOU KOKO!

"AT THAT MOMENT, I DISCOVERED THE PARCAT'S ASTONISHING TALENT..."

YOU'RE CUTE! I THINK I'LL CALL YOU KOKO!

HEY, HOW DID YOU--? THE PARCAT--IT CAN READ MY MIND! LIKE A PARROT, IT REPEATS MY *THOUGHTS!*

COME ON, BRANDON! THE BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU!

THE RANSOM MONEY MUST HAVE COME FROM THE I.I.I.

THE RANSOM MONEY MUST HAVE COME FROM THE I.I.I.

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACE GEM

DEAR BOSS:

CH'SO I'M NOT EVEN WORTH $50,000!

ANYWAY, AS THE CONDEMNED MAN WAS EATING A HEARTY BREAKFAST..

...I'M GLAD JENKS DIDN'T SEE WHAT I DID LAST NIGHT

HEY! KOKO CAN READ THE PIRATES' THOUGHTS, TOO!

"KOKO'S MIND-READING ABILITY CREATED A DIVERSION. SOME DIVERSION!"

...I PALMED AN ACE DURING OUR POKER GAME...

WHY, YOU CHEAT! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THAT!

"BOSS, YOU NEVER SAW SUCH A BRAWL!"

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET AWAY WHILE THEY'RE-- UH--OCCUPIED!

"... MY UNUSUAL SENSE OF DIRECTION GUIDED ME TO ANOTHER CAVE, HANDSOMELY FURNISHED..."

WE'VE GOT COMPANY, KOKO! LET'S MAKE WITH THE INTRO-DUCTIONS!

I'M BETTY GORT. YOU MUST BE NEW HERE. FOR GOODNESS SAKES--WHAT'S THAT?

"...SHE'S GORT'S NIECE! HOW A BRIGAND LIKE GORT CAN HAVE A PRETTY RELATION LIKE BETTY IS ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE!"

HE'S SO CUTE! DOES HE REALLY SAY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING?

AND YOU'RE CUTE TOO, BETTY! KOKO, SAY IT FOR ME!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

I ONLY HOPE THIS GETS THROUGH TO YOU! THE COMMUNICATOR'S BEEN LEFT OPEN! BE CARE-FUL! THE PIRATES HAVE DEVELOPED A "FORCE FIELD" FROM THE ONE THEY FOUND IN OUR CLIPPER! BUT TO GET BACK TO BETTY...

"...SHE TOOK TO KOKO FROM THE START.."

I THINK YOU'RE CUTE, TOO, KOKO! A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!

PAY IT TO KOKO! HE'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M THINKING!

BZZZ--BZZZ--BZZ

"BUT BEFORE BETTY COULD ANSWER MY SWEET NOTHINGS KOKO WHISPERED INTO HER EAR..."

THERE HE IS! GRAB HIM, LADS!

TAKE HIM TO THE EXECJT ON ROOM! UH--SORRY, BETTY-- I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FIND OUT ABOUT THESE THINGS!

UNCLE, WHAT'S A KISS?

GOLLY, YOU CAN'T EXECUTE A MAN FOR WANTING TO KISS A PRETTY GIRL!

"...IT LOOKED LIKE CURTAINS--BLACK ONES--FOR YOUR FAIR-HAIRED BOY!"

SHOO, KOKO! YOU WANT TO GET SHOT, TOO?

READY! AIM! F--WHAT IS IT?

THE SPACE NAVY! IT'S SURROUNDED OUR ASTEROID!

THROW DOWN YOUR ARMS AND SURRENDER, GORT!

HA, HA! TRY TO GET THROUGH MY "FORCE FIELD"--AND MAKE ME!

GORT'S SAFE! THE "FORCE FIELD" CAN'T BE BREACHED BY THE NAVY!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

I DON'T MIND ADMITTING MY HEART SANK WHEN I SAW THE "FORCE FIELD" PROTECTING THE PIRATES. THEN-- KOKO SAVED THE DAY... AND MY LIFE...

GORT, OUR SUPPLIES ARE LOW! IF THE SPACE NAVY BLOCKADES US, WE'LL STARVE!

STOP WORRYING! I HAVEN'T FAILED YOU YET, HAVE I?

"...KOKO HOPPED ONTO GORT'S SHOULDER, AND SPOKE UP!"

...I KNOW WE'RE SHORT ON SUPPLIES. OUR POSITION HERE IS HOPELESS! BETTY AND I WILL LEAVE IN BRANDON'S CLIPPER TONIGHT!

HEAR THAT, BOYS? GORT IS THINKING OF LETTING US TAKE THE RAP!

BLAST HIM DOWN!

"...IN THE EXCITEMENT, I RACED FOR THE POWER SWITCH...!"

THIS WILL CUT OFF THE "FORCE FIELD"! NOW THE NAVY CAN BREAK IN!

PLOP!

"OF COURSE, YOU KNOW THE REST... WHEN THE FIGHTING WAS OVER, AND THE PIRATES SUBDUED, I WAS EVEN GLAD TO SEE YOU!"

SO THIS IS KOKO! MY BOY, I'M PROUD OF YOU! THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE ELIMINATED THE PIRATE THREAT! MY MESSAGE WAS A FAKE -- TO GAIN TIME! OTHERWISE, I WOULD HAVE PAID THE RANSOM!

THANKS. I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO TAKE CARE OF BETTY...

I REALLY OUGHT TO RAISE BRANDON'S SALARY! I'LL SETTLE FOR $100 -- BUT I'LL OFFER HIM ONLY $10!

NO, YOU WON'T! IT'S $100! THANKS, KOKO!

BETRAYED BY MY OWN THOUGHTS!

SPACEGRAM

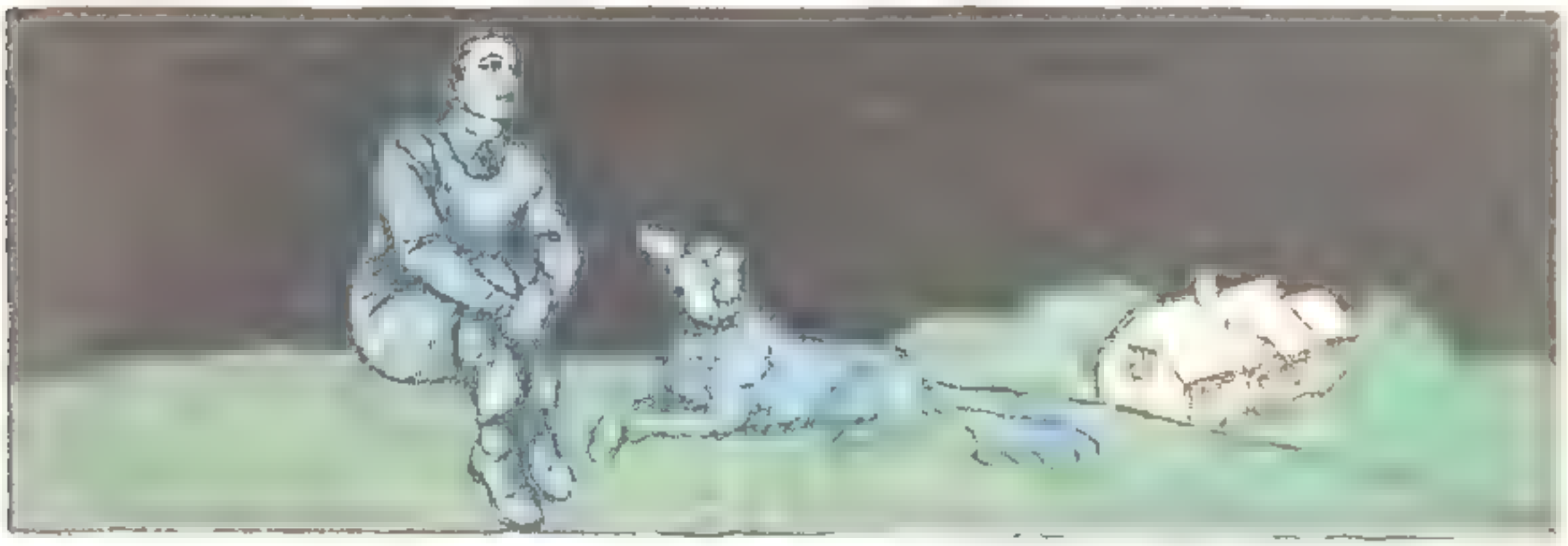
DEAR BOSS:

THANKS FOR THE RAISE! I NEED IT. YOU SEE, AFTER HER UNCLE WAS SENT TO THE PRISON ASTEROID, BETTY NEEDED A LOT OF COMFORTING.
HER IDEA OF COMFORT IS DINING AND DANCING AT THE GALAXY ROOM, THE MOST EXPENSIVE CLUB ON EARTH!
SO-- CAN I HAVE AN ADVANCE ON MY SALARY, UNTIL NEXT PAYDAY?

YOURS,
BERT BRANDON

The End

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT STARS?



TRUE-FALSE

(Below are 10 statements designed to test your knowledge of *double stars*. Select the ones that are completely correct and answer *true*. If you spot one that is all or partly erroneous, answer *false*. For each number correctly answered, credit yourself with 4 points.)

1. A "double star" is really two separate stars which revolve about a common center of gravity.

2. It has been estimated that most "single" stars are in reality double stars.

3. In a visual double star system, both stars usually have the same degree of brightness.

4. Two observations are sufficient to determine the apparent orbit of a visual double star.

5. Of the thousands of visual binary stars that have been detected only about 20 have had their individual masses determined.

6. A typical visual binary is *Sirius*. It was known to have a companion star 18 years before it was eventually discovered.

7. The most spectacular example of a star known to have both a *visual* binary and a *spectroscopic* binary is *Capella*.

8. Astronomers are reasonably certain that every pair of stars that appears close together is actually a double star system.

9. The distinction of being the first double star discovered goes to *Mizar*.

10. According to present statistics, one visual binary in 20 is really a *multiple* system of stars.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

(Herewith are presented 10 statements dealing with the *speeds and motions of stars*. However, only *one* of a trio of statements is correct. Make your choice and take 2 points for each alternate correctly answered.)

1. Up to the 18th century it was generally believed that all the stars in the sky (a) were stationary, (b) moved around the sun like planets, (c) were comets.

2. The first astronomer to determine the true motions of stars was (a) Galileo, (b) Halley, (c) Pickering.

3. The speeds with which stars move toward or away from us can best be determined by (a) telescope, (b) spectroscope, (c) eclipses.

4. The individual motion of a star relative to other stars is known as (a) radial motion, (b) stellar motion, (c) proper motion.

5. The velocities of many stars are com

parable to those of (a) the planets of the solar system in their orbits, (b) comets, (c) meteors.

6. The greatest known space velocity of a star is (a) 4 miles a second, (b) 41 miles a second, (c) 410 miles a second.

7. As a result of stars' motions the shapes of (a) constellations, (b) our solar system, (c) nebulae change so much in the course of thousands of years as to be unrecognizable.

8. The star with the greatest proper motion would require about 200 years to change its position by an amount equal to the diameter of the (a) sun, (b) earth, (c) moon.

9. Our star-sun is speeding through space at a velocity of about (a) 12 miles a second, (b) 122 miles a second, (c) 122 miles a minute.

10. The sun and its family of planets, moons, planetoids, meteors and comets are drifting in space toward the star (a) Vega, (b) Sirius, (c) Rigel.

MISSING WORD

(Supply the missing word that will complete the following facts about *new stars*. Each word correctly given is worth 5 points.)

1. Ordinary stars which suddenly flare up to tremendous brilliance for a while and then fade to their former obscurity are known as _____.

2. A star which during this period of explosion is in itself nearly as bright as the whole galaxy in which it appears is called a _____.

3. Actually an increase of ten _____ in one of these stars represents an increase of light intensity amounting to 10,000 times.

4. The increase in brightness of these new stars may range from about 50 thousand times brighter than our own sun to about 100 _____ times that of our sun.

5. The best theory to account for the sudden appearance of these stars is that for some reason a relatively faint star _____ and blows off an outer shell of gaseous material.

MATCHING COLUMNS

(In the first column are listed the names of five prominent stars. In column two are given the "nicknames" of these same stars, but in incorrect order. Tag the right star to its nickname, and take 3 points for each of the correctly joined terms.)

1. Sirius	A. "The Pole Star"
2. Arcturus	B. "The Scorcher"
3. Antares	C. "The Apron"
4. Polaris	D. "The Rival of Mars"
5. Mizar	E. "The Bear Keeper"

ANSWERS

True-False: 1, true. 2, true. 3, false (one star is usually brighter than the other). 4, false (at least 5 observations must be made). 5, true. 6, true. 7, true. 8, false. 9, true. 10, true.

Multiple Choice: 1, a. 2, b. 3, b. 4, c. 5, a. 6, c. 7, a. 8, c. 9, a. 10, a.

Missing Word: 1, novae. 2, super-nova. 3, magnitudes. 4, million. 5, explodes.

Matching Columns: 1-B, 2-E, 3-D, 4-A, 5-C.

RATINGS

90 to 100—You're as bright as a super-nova!
75 to 90—You're as bright as Sirius!
60 to 75—You're as bright as the full moon!
0 to 60—You're as bright as the sun during a total eclipse!

THREE SMASHING ADVENTURES

OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TEAM

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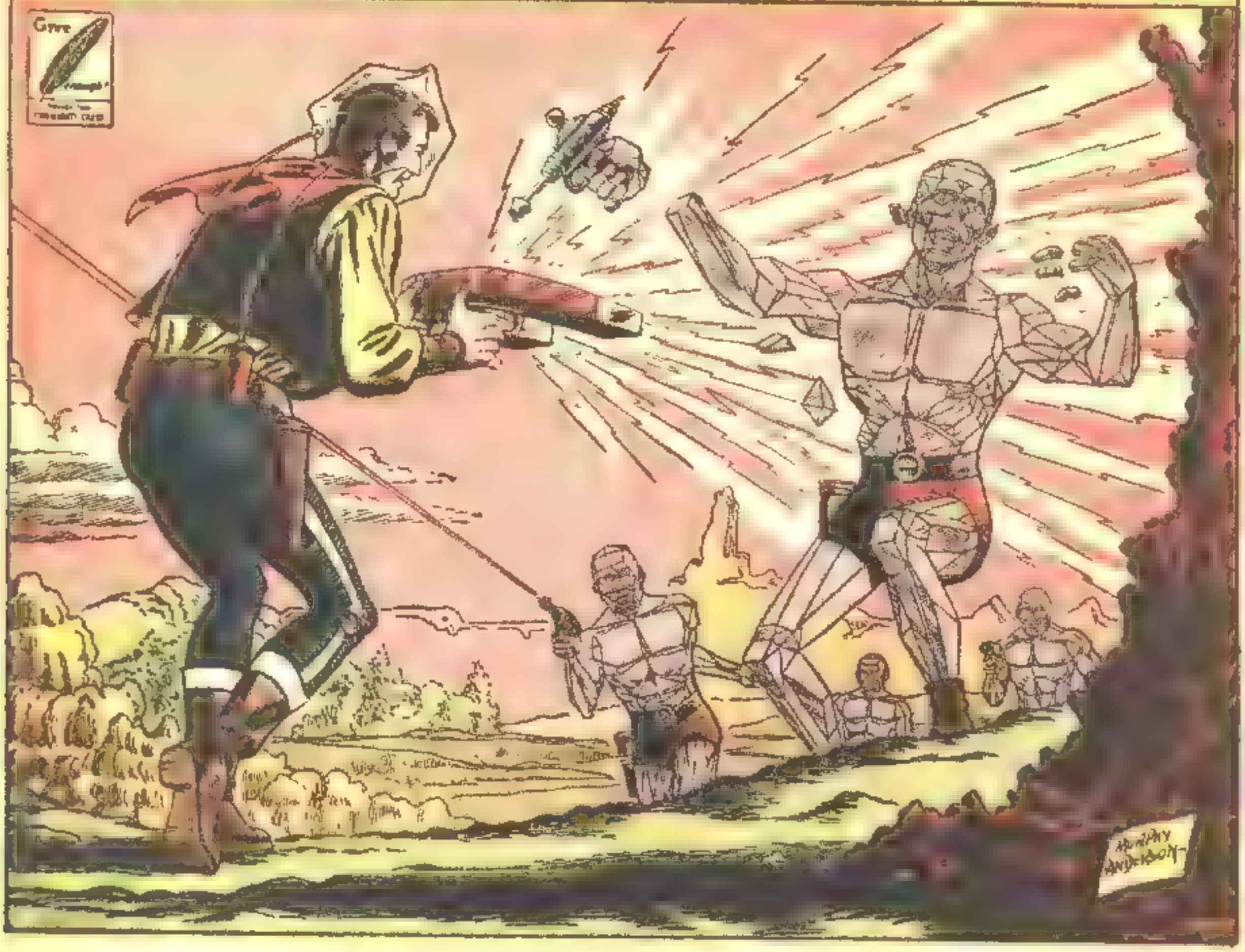

CAY CARTER MOVED SPACEWARD WITH THE EVER-EXPANDING FRONTIER ... AND ON THE FRONTIER-WORLDS, MEN REVERTED TO THE OLD CUSTOM OF SETTLING THEIR QUARRELS WITH DUELLING WEAPONS!

BUT EVEN CARTER, MASTER DUELLIST OF THEM ALL, COULD HARDLY HAVE ANTICIPATED THE INCREDIBLE CONTEST THAT AWAITED HIM ON THE STRANGE *PLANET OF METAL!*

IN A NOISE-FILLED CANTEEN ON THE FAR-FLUNG EARTH COLONY OF SABRA II, A YOUNG CRUSADING EDITOR SPEAKS HIS PIECE...

AS LONG AS WE TOLERATE A BLASTER-TOTING ADVENTURER -- A CARD CHEAT AND BULLY -- LIKE CAY CARTER -- ON SABRA, WE'LL NEVER HAVE LAW AND ORDER HERE!

THAT'S RECKLESS TALK, WILMOT...

CAY CARTER!

SO I'M A BLASTER-TOTING ADVENTURER, AND A CARD CHEAT? THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER TO CHARGES LIKE THAT, WILMOT..

MYSTERY IN SPACE

CARTER'S FORCING HAL WILMOT INTO A *DUEL!* IT'S AS GOOD AS *MURDER!*

...THIS!

LATER, AFTER THE APPOINTMENT FOR THE DUEL HAS BEEN MADE...

YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE *SABRA*, HAL! YOU CAN'T FIGHT CAY CARTER--IT'S *CERTAIN DEATH!*

I KNOW...BUT I CAN'T RUN AWAY EITHER...

AS THE GREAT STAR SETS OVER *SABRA'S* STILL-WILD HORIZON...IN A CLEARING IN A WOODS...

YOU BOTH KNOW THE RULES! YOU TAKE FIFTEEN STEPS APART--AT MY COUNT--THEN TURN AND FIRE!

FIFTEEN... STEPS...

...AND THIS WILL BE MY FIFTEENTH VICTIM! STRANGE THAT I CAN REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL... WAY BACK TO THAT FIRST ONE... EVEN THOUGH IT'S MANY YEARS AGO...

Z!

"*Z* WAS HARDLY MORE THAN A KID THEN, ON ANOTHER FRONTIER WORLD! AND THE LEADER OF A BAND OF RUFFIANS WAS TERRORIZING OUR TOWN..."

APPARENTLY YOU DON'T HEAR GOOD, JUNIOR! WHEN CERES CHARLEY SAYS GET OFF'N THE STREETS, YOU LOOSEN YOUR JETS AN' GO! NOW IT'S TOO *LATE...!*

"FEAR MADE MY LIMBS RUBBERY! BUT SOMEHOW... BARELY IN TIME... I MANAGED TO PULL OUT MY OWN BLASTER..."

THE YOUNGSTER QUICK-BLASTED CHARLEY!

IT WAS A FAIR FIGHT! THE EARTHLING SHOT IN SELF-DEFENSE!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"2! NUMBER 2 CAME SOON AFTER WHEN A CROOKED MINER TRIED TO JUMP MY URANIUM CLAIM ..."

I STAKED THIS CLAIM LAST NIGHT!

YOU DID? OKAY... THEN WE'LL *BURY* YOU ON IT!

"WE BOTH FIRED TOGETHER... HIS BLAST MISSED... MINE DIDN'T! EVEN THEN I HARDLY EVER MISSED ANYTHING I SHOT AT..."

UHHH...

IT WAS EITHER ME OR HIM! I'VE COMMITTED NO CRIME! ME OR HIM...

"3.. WAS A GAMBLER ON URANUS... WHO GAMBLED HIS LIFE AGAINST MINE -- AND LOST..."

THREE!

I HATED TO KILL HIM! IT MADE ME SICK! AFTER THAT INCIDENT, I MADE APPLICATION TO JOIN THE SPACE PATROL! I GUESS I HAD A YEARNING TO BE USEFUL ... AND RESPECTED...

REMEMBER, CARTER--WHILE YOU CARRY THIS SPACE PATROL MEDALLION, YOU CARRY THE HONOR OF THE CORPS WHEREEVER YOU GO! UPHOLD THAT HONOR--DON'T SOIL IT!

I WON'T, SIR!

"... IT WAS ON RIGA CITY THAT FOUR CAME... I WAS ON A PATROL MISSION--MAYBE OVER-EAGER--AND STEPPED ON A FEW TOES IN MY INVESTIGATION..."

IF YOU'RE NOT A COWARD, YOU SNOOPER--YOU'LL MEET ME AT THE DUELING GROUNDS IN ONE HOUR!

YOU KNOW... SPACE PATROLMEN AREN'T ALLOWED TO DUEL!

"I SPENT A WRETCHED HOUR! TO DISOBEY THE CODE... OR BE BRANDED A COWARD? I HAD TO DECIDE... AND I DID..."

FIRE!

I'LL EXPLAIN TO PATROL HEADQUARTERS THAT I WAS FORCED INTO THIS... FORCED TO KILL AGAIN!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"5... DUELLING HAD BECOME THE RAGE OF THE SPACE FRONTIER! BLASTER—HAPPY DUDES FOUGHT--LITERALLY--AT THE DROP OF A HAT..."

SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUMP INTO YOU...

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN APOLOGIES, S.P.-MAN! RAY-GUNS WILL DO MY TALKING!

"HE DIDN'T GET VERY FAR WITH HIS BRAND OF TALK! I SILENCED HIM FOR GOOD ON THE DUELLING FIELD! THEN THE SPACE-GRAM CAME..."

"...FOR VIOLATING SPACE PATROL CODE... AND FAILURE TO CONTROL YOURSELF, YOU ARE HEREBY DISMISSED..."

"IT WAS A HARD BLOW! I TRIED TO BE A GOOD SPACE OFFICER... BUT APPARENTLY I COULDN'T UPHOLD PATROL HONOR--AND MY OWN TOO!"

YOUR MEDALLION, CARTER...

I WON'T LET THIS RUIN MY LIFE! I CAN TAKE UP MY OLD TRADE OF MINING AGAIN! I'LL STRIKE IT RICH SOMEWHERE!

"6... 7... 8... 9...

IN SPACE-MINING CAMPS, THE WEAK GO UNDER! I HAD TO BE STRONG...

ANYONE ELSE WANT TO TRY AND SET HIMSELF UP AS BOSS OF THIS CAMP?

WE--WE... TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU, CARTER!

"I MADE MY PILE... BOUGHT A SPACE-YACHT... AND TOOK OFF TO SEE THE GALAXY! MAYBE I WAS RUNNING AWAY... BUT FROM WHAT?"

I'VE KILLED NINE MEN--BUT ALWAYS WHEN I WAS FORCED TO--IN A FAIR FIGHT! I PRIDE MYSELF ON THAT... I'M NOT A KILLER--NO ONE CAN SAY I'VE LOOKED FOR FIGHTS...

"ENGINE TROUBLE FORCED ME DOWN ON AN UNKNOWN WORLD IN STAR CLUSTER IV! IT ALMOST SPELLED THE END OF MY CAREER"

KKKKKKK!

SAVAGE NATIVES COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF METAL--ATTACKING ME... AND MY BLASTER HAS NO EFFECT ON THEM!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"I'D ALWAYS KEPT A COOL HEAD IN TROUBLE! THAT TRAIT STOOD ME IN GOOD STEAD THEN..."

GOT TO IMPROVISE A WEAPON TO USE AGAINST THESE METALS! MAYBE THIS SUPER-CHARGED MAGNET FROM MY CONTROL ASSEMBLY IF IT DOESN'T WORK, I'M A GONER...

"THE MAGNET DID WORK! THE FIGHT WAS JUST LIKE ANOTHER DUEL--ONLY THIS TIME WITH THE STRANGEST WEAPON IMAGINABLE..."

GREAT GEMINI! THE EFFECT ON THEM IS LIKE AN EXPLOSION!

10,11,12,13...

"IT WAS A HARD FIGHT... AND ONCE AGAIN I'D BEEN FORCED INTO IT..."

FOUR MORE... YES, I'VE GOT TO COUNT THESE TOO! THEY'RE METALS BUT THEY'RE LIVING CREATURES!

"I MADE IT BACK TO CIVILIZATION... BACK HERE TO GABRA II ...ONLY TO RUN SMACK INTO NUMBER 14..."

THAT BRUTE WANTED TO FIGHT ME--TO EARN HIMSELF A REPUTATION--BY KILLING THE FAMOUS CAY CARTER! IT WAS ME OR HIM... ME OR HIM!

"AND NOW IT'S THE TURN OF NUMBER 15! ME OR HIM... ME OR HIM..."

FIF--

BUT WILMOT DIDN'T FORCE ME INTO THIS FIGHT... I FORCED HIM! I'M BEGINNING TO REALIZE SOMETHING I NEVER SUSPECTED BEFORE! SOMETHING TERRIBLE..

--TEEN! TURN.. AND FIRE!

I-I'VE BEGUN TO ENJOY KILLING! I USED TO HATE IT! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? I USED TO KILL BECAUSE I HAD TO... NOW IT'S BECAUSE I WANT TO!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

LATER, IN THE CANTEEN...
LOOKS LIKE YOU CALLED THE TURN ON CAY CARTER, WILMOT! HE'S NOT ONLY A BULLY--BUT A COWARDLY ONE!
IS HE? I WONDER...

MUCH LATER... A GREATLY CHANGED CAY CARTER RECEIVES A LONG-AWAITED SPACE-GRAM...
"BECAUSE RECENT EVENTS HAVE TO SOME EXTENT CANCELLED OUT THE PAST, YOUR APPLICATION TO RE-ENTER THE SPACE PATROL IS BEING GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION..."

NOT LONG AFTERWARD... IN SPACE PATROL HEADQUARTERS...
I KNOW NOW THAT THIS IS WHAT I WAS MEANT TO BE, SIR--A MEMBER OF THE CORPS! AND THE HONOR OF THE CORPS IS ALL I'LL EVER CARE ABOUT FROM NOW ON!
I BELIEVE YOU! GOOD LUCK, CARTER!
The End

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